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PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re U.S. Patent Application of )  
Becker, et al. )  
Application No. 10/075,153 ) Art Unit: 2876  
Filed: February 14, 2002 ) Examiner: K. Koyama  
For: Coding Symbology and a Method )  
for Printing Same )

**PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS TO BE DISCUSSED**  
**DURING INTERVIEW TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 28, 2004**

Examiner Koyama:

Below are proposed amendments to the independent claims that are to be discussed during the interview scheduled for January 28, 2004.

While we look forward to discussing the claims with you, please be advised that the Applicants respectfully do not concede to the arguments raised in the Office Action mailed December 9, 2003, particularly as to whether any claim is rendered obvious by the cited art. In this regard, Applicants respectfully reserve their rights to pursue in a related application any claim that appears below, as well as the originally-filed claims or any other claim that may be drafted during prosecution.

We hope to reach an agreement on January 28, 2004, so as to place the application in condition for allowance. We look forward to speaking with you.

As a gentle reminder, I can be reached for the interview at (847) 948-2475.

Best regards,  
/s/  
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### **PROPOSED AMENMENTS**

1. (currently amended) A medical container having a negative image bar code~~encoding~~  
symbology comprising:

a medical container~~a substrate~~;

a plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the  
container~~the substrate~~,

wherein the container defines spaces that separate the light-reflecting  
segments.~~[[:]]~~

wherein the spaces~~defined~~defining light-absorbing segments.~~[[:]]~~

wherein the light-reflecting segments and the light-absorbing segments  
define a negative image bar code representing fixed information and variable information,~~[[:]~~  
and~~]]~~

wherein the negative image bar code~~encoding~~symbology is detectable using  
a reader, and~~[[:.]]~~

wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the  
group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time,  
price, and concentration.

14. (currently amended) A container having a negative image bar code, the container  
~~encoding~~symbology comprising:

a flexible film~~substrate~~;

a plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the  
film~~substrate~~,

wherein the film defines spaces that separate the light-reflecting segments,  
wherein the spaces~~defined~~defining light-absorbing segments.~~[[:]]~~

wherein the light-reflecting segments and the light-absorbing segments  
define a negative image bar code representing fixed information and variable information,~~[[:.]]~~

wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the  
group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time,  
price, and concentration, and

wherein the negative image bar codeencoding symbology is detectable using a reader[; and]]

wherein the substrate comprises a pouch-type flexible container.

15. (currently amended) A medical container having a negative image bar codeencoding symbology comprising:

a medical containersubstrate;

a first plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the medical container, wherein the medical container defines first spaces that separate the first plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the first spaces define defining a first set of light-absorbing segments, and wherein the first plurality and the first set define a first negative image bar code representing fixed information;

a second plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the medical container, wherein the medical container defines second spaces that separate the second plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the second spaces define defining a second set of light-absorbing segments, wherein the second plurality and the second set define a second negative image bar code representing variable information, wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration; and

wherein the first bar code and the second bar code are each encoding symbology is detectable using a reader.

16. (currently amended) A medical container having a negative image bar codeencoding symbology comprising:

a medical containersubstrate defining a portion of the container;

a plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the medical containersubstrate, wherein the medical container defines spaces that separate the plurality of light-reflecting segments, and wherein the spaces define defining light-absorbing segments;

wherein the light-reflecting segments and the light-absorbing segments define a negative image bar code representing fixed information and variable information;

wherein the negative image bar code is detectable using a reader; and  
wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration

wherein the container is a medical container.

17. (currently amended) A container comprising:

a flexible filmsubstrate;

~~a first plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the substrate, the spaces defining a first set of light-absorbing segments, and wherein the first plurality and the first set define a first bar code representing fixed information;~~

~~a second plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the flexible film~~substrate, wherein the flexible film defines spaces that separate the plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the spaces define~~defining~~ a second set of light-absorbing segments, [[and]] wherein the second plurality and the second set define a second negative image bar code representing variable information[[;]], wherein the first bar code and second bar code [[are]] is detectable using a reader[[; and]], and wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration

wherein the container is a medical container.

18. (currently amended) A container system comprising:

a medical primary containerhaving a~~substrate~~;

a plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the medical container~~substrate, wherein the medical container defines spaces that separate the plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the spaces define light-absorbing segments, wherein the light-reflecting segments and the light-absorbing segments define a negative image bar code representing fixed information and variable information, and wherein the bar code is detectable using a reader[[;]] and~~

a material positioned over a portion of the bar code substrate, wherein the portion has an A or B scan grade when decoded through the material and in accordance with ANSI X3.182.

19. (currently amended) A container system comprising:

a medical primary container having substrate;

a first plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the medical container substrate, wherein the medical container defines first spaces that separate the first plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the first spaces define a first set of light-absorbing segments, and wherein the first plurality and the first set define a first negative image bar code representing fixed information;

a second plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the medical container substrate, wherein the medical container defines second spaces that separate the second plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the second spaces define a second set of light-absorbing segments, and wherein the second plurality and the second set define a second negative image bar code representing variable information;

wherein the first bar code and the second bar code are detectable using a reader; and

a material positioned over a portion each bar code of the substrate, wherein each portion has an A or B scan grade when decoded through the material and in accordance with ANSI X3.182.

20. (currently amended) A container system comprising:

a medical primary container having a substrate;

a first plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the medical container substrate, wherein the substrate defines spaces that separate the plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the spaces define a first set of light-absorbing segments, [[and]] wherein the first plurality and the first set define a first negative image bar code representing fixed information or variable information;

a material positioned over a portion of the bar code, and substrate;

a second plurality of light reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the material, the spaces defining a second set of light absorbing segments, and wherein the second plurality and the second set define a second bar code representing fixed information or variable information;

wherein the first bar code and the second bar code are detectable using a reader; and

wherein the portion of the bar code has an A or B scan grade when decoded through the material and in accordance with ANSI X3.182

wherein the combination of the first bar code and the second bar code represent fixed information and variable information.

21. (currently amended) A container system comprising:

a flexible container~~primary container having a substrate~~;

~~a material positioned over a portion of the substrate~~;

a plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the flexible container~~material~~, wherein the flexible container defines spaces that separate the plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the spaces define~~defining~~ light-absorbing segments, [[and]] wherein the light-reflecting segments and the light-absorbing segments define a bar code representing fixed information and variable information, wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration,[[;]] and wherein the bar code is detectable using a reader[[.]];

a material positioned over a portion of the bar code, wherein the portion of the bar code has an A or B scan grade when decoded through the material and in accordance with ANSI X3.182.

22. (currently amended) A container system comprising:

a film that defines the container~~primary container having substrate~~;

~~a material positioned over a portion of the substrate~~;

a first plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the material, the spaces defining a first set of light-absorbing segments, and wherein the first plurality and the first set define a first bar code representing fixed information;

a second plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the filmmaterial, wherein the film defines spaces that separate the light-reflecting segments, wherein the spaces definedefining a second set of light-absorbing segments, [[and]] wherein the second plurality and the second set define a second negative image bar code representing variable information, wherein the bar code can be detected by a reader, and wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration.[[;]]

wherein the first bar code and the second bar code are each detectable using a reader.

23. (currently amended) A method of transferring a negative image bar code onto a flexible web-of material comprising the steps of:

providing a flexible web-of material;

providing a printer capable of transferring a plurality of light-reflecting segments negative image bar code onto the web in response to a signal representative of the plurality of light-reflecting segments, negative image bar code, the negative image bar code representing fixed information and variable information; and

transferring the signal to the printer; and

transferring the plurality of light-reflecting segments negative image bar code onto the web-of material, wherein the web defines spaces that separate the plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the spaces define a plurality light-absorbing segments, wherein the light-reflecting segments and the light-absorbing segments define a negative image bar code that can be detected by a reader, wherein the negative image bar code represents fixed information and variable information, and wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration.

25. (currently amended) A container system comprising:

a flexible~~primary~~ container having a substrate;  
a plurality of light-reflecting segments disposed on the flexible container, wherein  
the flexible container defines spaces that separate the plurality of light-reflecting segments,  
wherein the spaces define light-absorbing segments, wherein the light-reflecting segments and  
the light-absorbing segments define a negative image bar code representing variable information,  
wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot  
number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration;  
and[[;]]

a material positioned over a portion of the negative image bar code~~substrate~~,  
wherein the portion of the bar code has an A or B scan grade when decoded through the material  
and in accordance with ANSI X3.182 ~~container system has a negative image bar code~~  
~~representing fixed information and variable information, and wherein the negative image bar~~  
~~code is detectable using a reader.~~

33. (new) A medical container having a bar code comprising:

a negative image bar code disposed on a medical container,  
wherein the medical container defines at least two spaces in the bar  
code, the spaces absorbing light,

wherein the negative image bar code is detectable with a bar code  
reader,

wherein the negative image bar code comprises variable  
information, and

wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected  
from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number,  
production time, price, and concentration.